

Music development plan summary: Dean Valley School

Overview

Detail	Information
Academic year that this summary covers	2024 - 25
Date this summary was published	October 2024
Date this summary will be reviewed	July 2025
Name of the school music lead	Emma Tennant
Name of school leadership team member with responsibility for music (if different)	
Name of local music hub	Love Music Trust
Name of other music education organisation(s) (if partnership in place)	

This is a summary of how our school delivers music education to all our pupils across three areas – curriculum music, co-curricular provision and musical experiences – and what changes we are planning in future years. This information is to help pupils and parents or carers understand what our school offers and who we work with to support our pupils' music education.

Part A: Curriculum music

This is about what we teach in lesson time, how much time is spent teaching music and any music qualifications or awards that pupils can achieve.

At Dean Valley we are committed to every child having access to a full musical education that is informed by the Model Music curriculum. Children have weekly 45 minute lessons in KS2 and 2 lessons in every 3 weeks in KS1 and EYFS, plus a weekly singing assembly. We follow a bespoke curriculum, that uses materials from Kapow, and also other online resources such as Music with Mr Gray – which helps children learn to read music independently, and personalised resources created by Mrs Tennant to ensure that every child is stretched and challenged in music.

We are well-equipped with pitched and unpitched classroom percussion instruments which are used throughout the school. Every child learns to read music in year 3 when they have whole class lessons in recorders. These recorder lessons teach children fluency in a range of notes over an octave, which they then use when they all join the school orchestra in year 4. The year 3 class take part in an annual trip to perform at the

Bridgewater Hall with the Halle Orchestra. This is run in conjunction with the Love Music Trust, who also quality assure our whole class recorder teaching.

Children develop their skills in composing, using pitched and unpitched instruments, and structure their pieces, working individually and in groups. They perform and listen to a wide range of pieces in different genres, sensitively looking at the cultural differences in music from around the world.

There is a strong tradition of singing and performing at Dean Valley. Children gradually build up their ability to sing in a wider range of pitches and gain confidence through yearly shows – nativities each year in EYFS and KS1, a spring musical/or Carols by Candlelight and a ‘performance class assembly’ for years 3 and 4 and a summer musical for years 5 and 6. This develops their ability to remember songs, dances and script and understand how to perform confidently on stage.

It is important that every child has access to music, and we ensure that every child takes part in music lessons through the support of TA staff and the SENDCO. We develop strategies for children with sensory needs, possibly using ear defenders, or considering seating arrangements, so that children feel comfortable in the performing space. We make all reasonable adjustments to give the children the best chance to express themselves through music, and gain the skills they need to perform, listen and compose to the best of their abilities.

Part B: Co-curricular music

This is about opportunities for pupils to sing and play music, outside of lesson time, including choirs, ensembles and bands, and how pupils can make progress in music beyond the core curriculum.

We have a dedicated music room for individual and small group teaching and have well-qualified and experienced specialist teachers in drums, singing, piano, clarinet, saxophone, flute and violin. The children have the opportunity to play in a pupil concert each year to demonstrate what they have been learning. They also take regular music exams. Pupil premium children can have tuition paid for by the school. Children are offered the chance to hire instruments from the Love Music Trust. There is a small store of instruments in school available to borrow. Children are given information about the Macclesfield Music Centre, which is a Saturday morning music club, and also summer courses run by the MMC.

There is an after school singing club for years 4, 5 and 6, preparing for Young Voices, which is a large scale concert where children sing in an arena with thousands of others.

The school runs an orchestra for children in years 4, 5 and 6, which currently has around 50 children in it. This is so that instrumentalists can perform regularly and build

up their ensemble skills. Mrs Tennant composes and arranges music for this based on the individual skills of each player. The orchestra performs each week in assembly, and at concerts for Christmas fairs and pupil concerts.

During the year children are also given the opportunity to perform for the whole school and parents during a music assembly where those undertaking lessons with peripatetic lessons can showcase the pieces they have been working on.

Part C: Musical experiences

This is about all the other musical events and opportunities that we organise, such as singing in assembly, concerts and shows, and trips to professional concerts.

There is a weekly singing assembly, where children learn new songs about being part of a community and hymns. There are regular performances including pupil concerts for children learning an instrument, Christmas and summer fair for orchestra, Dean Valley's Got Talent - where children perform different skills including singing, playing and dancing, 3 shows a year for Christmas, Spring and Summer terms, going to Young Voices at the Coop Arena, performing at the Bridgewater Hall with the Halle Orchestra.

We also welcome musicians and performers to Dean Valley, including groups that come and teach songs about mental resilience and Christianity.

These all raise the profile of music in the school and ensure that children feel valued and excited to take part and work hard in their musical endeavours.

We do not charge admission fees for our performances, but we ask for donations to go towards large items such as electric pianos and lighting. School trips are subsidised by the PTA and pupil premium children are paid for by the school.

In the future

This is about what the school is planning for subsequent years.

At Dean Valley we are always considering how to develop and improve our music education, and in recent years we have adapted the curriculum to use the Kapow Scheme, and introduced new online resources and use of IT in lessons. This use of IT can be developed further, so that more composing can be done on laptops to prepare children for their experiences in secondary school.